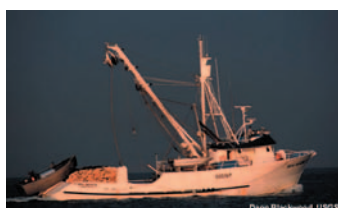


National Marine Sanctuary Program Sanctuary Advisory Council National Annual Report 2004



April 2005

U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
National Marine Sanctuary Program





About This Document

This national report is intended to provide a brief introduction to Sanctuary Advisory Councils, describe national level Council activities for 2004, and summarize the 2005 Annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting. The report also highlights each Council including: a site profile; Council profile; major achievements and milestones; Council recommendations; sanctuary decisions; and major administrative changes.

Comments or questions about the Sanctuary Advisory Councils
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Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead



Executive Summary

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) manages the nation's system of national marine sanctuaries. Established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 1972, the NMSP is marking fifteen years of working with Sanctuary Advisory Councils (Councils) with this national annual Council report. There are currently ten Councils established for the thirteen sanctuaries, as well as the Council for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve/Proposed Sanctuary.

The evolution and maturation of the NMSP has been paralleled by the evolution and maturation of its Councils. The Councils create a nexus among the sanctuaries, the resources, and the communities. The Councils are a critical link to our very important constituents—the American public. The NMSP is fully committed to providing continued support to its Councils now and into the future.

The NMSP's Councils in 2004 and early 2005 continued to achieve significant accomplishments across the system. Many of these accomplishments were related to ongoing management plan reviews and a designation, but significant attention has also been given to other issues facing sanctuaries, including anthropogenic noise (Channel Islands), monitoring (Cordell Bank), and vessel traffic (Florida Keys and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale).

Early 2005 saw completion of the fifth annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting. The meeting was co-hosted by the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries in San Francisco and Olema, California on February 7 – 11. The meeting included an informal discussion session with Council Coordinators from across the NMSP, a similar session for Council Chairs, presentation of a case study for each Council, and numerous other sessions ranging from management plan review to a presentation by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The meeting also included discussions and input from the Chairs on national issues including aquaculture, marine reserves and cruise ships.

The NMSP is honored to have such deeply passionate and knowledgeable individuals serving on its Councils and looks forward to continuing to serve each and every Council in the years to come. The NMSP expects to have a number of accomplishments for 2005, including the creation of three new Councils for the Monitor, Fagatele Bay and Flower Garden Banks sanctuaries, second biannual Council coordinator training, and the sixth annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C. in Spring 2006.

Introduction

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) manages the nation's system of national marine sanctuaries. Established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 1972, the NMSP is marking fifteen years of working with Sanctuary Advisory Councils (Councils) with the publication of this national annual Council report. The NMSP considers the increasing use and support of Councils to be a mark of its continuing evolution as a maturing program. The depth of the NMSP's commitment to Councils is embodied in its Council policy statement:

The NMSP regards the involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protect sanctuary resources. One key way the NMSP has achieved this involvement is the formation of Councils.

Councils bring together members of a diverse community to provide advice to the sanctuary manager (delegated from the Secretary of Commerce) on the management and protection of the sanctuary, or to assist the NMSP in guiding a proposed site through the designation process.

The NMSP is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of Councils at all sanctuaries. In order for Councils to achieve their full potential, the NMSP will:

- At each site, provide sufficient support to allow Councils to operate efficiently and effectively;
- Provide support and guidance from the national office to help Councils operate efficiently and at a basic level of consistency across the system;
- Promote coordination and communication among Councils and among sanctuary staff that work closely with Councils; and
- Develop training programs appropriate to Council officers and members, and sanctuary managers and staff.

There are currently eleven Councils established for the thirteen sanctuaries and one proposed site within the NMSP network. Three more are expected to be established by the end of 2005 (Table 1).

Over the last few years, the NMSP has determined there are a number of primary roles Councils play:

- Serve as a liaison between the sanctuary and its community, disseminating information about the sanctuary to the various constituencies of members and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to sanctuary staff;
- Assist in creating a dialogue to examine various sides of an issue and a place for mediation;
- Identify potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working and forge relationships;
- Help identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues of which the sanctuary might not be aware;
- Review and provide input on sanctuary plans, proposals, and products, including prioritizing issues;
- Participate in sanctuary events, activities, and programs;
- Provide information to individuals or groups interested in establishing a friends' group or foundation to support a sanctuary and/or help support friends' groups;
- Provide technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary; and
- Validate the accuracy and quality of information that the sanctuary uses for decision-making purposes.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Highlights for 2004

Numerous accomplishments for the NMSP's Councils in 2004 and early 2005 include:

- The Channel Islands Council adopted a set of recommendations that call for the sanctuary to begin addressing potential sanctuary marine life impacts from anthropogenic noise sources such as large vessel traffic.
- Cordell Bank Council members were instrumental in the design and development of a monthly at-sea biological monitoring program for the sanctuary.
- The Gulf of Farallones Council continued to play a vital role in the joint management plan review and were instrumental in helping prepare action plans for areas including Education and Outreach, Fishing Activities, Wildlife Disturbance, Water Quality, Invasive Species, Vessel Spills, Resource Protection, and Research and Monitoring.
- Based on the recommendations of its Large Vessel Working Group, the Florida Keys Council supported additional monitoring of the Navy maintenance dredging of Key West Harbor and Shipping Channel.
- In 1999 – 2004, the Gray's Reef Council played a key role in the site's management plan review; the Council is currently transitioning to focus on implementation and evaluation of the plan, including establishing a working group to begin investigation of a marine research area in the sanctuary.
- The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Council continued to focus its efforts on measures aimed at mitigating whale-vessel collisions. The Research Subcommittee developed a proposal for a study to investigate a reporting system that would allow whale-vessel collision reports to be made anonymously.

Table 1: Sanctuary Advisory Councils

Site	Year Council Established	Total # Members	Primary Focus for 2004
Florida Keys	1991	19	Operations
HI Humpback Whale	1992	31	Operations
Monterey Bay	1994	24	MPR*
Stellwagen Bank	1992	21	MPR
Olympic Coast	1995	20	Operations
Thunder Bay	1997	16	Operations
Channel Islands	1998	24	MPR; zoning; noise
Gray's Reef	1999	11	MPR
Northwestern HI	2001	25	Ops; Designation
Gulf of the Farallones	2001	8	MPR
Cordell Bank	2001	6	MPR
Fagatele Bay	2005 (anticipated)	10	N/A
Flower Garden Banks	2005 (anticipated)	?	N/A
Monitor	2005 (anticipated)	?	N/A

*Management Plan Review

- The Monterey Bay Council worked diligently on management plan review for the sanctuary, recommending 21 action plans on issues ranging from ecosystem protection to multicultural outreach; the Council also provided input on how to prioritize the phase-in of the plan over five years.
- The Olympic Coast Council adopted the full report of their Marine Conservation Working Group's Intertidal Zoning Report that summarized over two years of work evaluating the need for additional zoning with the sanctuary.
- The Stellwagen Bank Council continued to play a key role in the management plan review. Council members chaired and participated in eleven stakeholder Working Groups from December 2003 to September 2004. Later in the year, the Council prioritized strategies and identified important activities within the management plan action plans.
- The Thunder Bay Council focused on becoming more knowledgeable about the sanctuary and its underwater cultural resources. To this end, a number of educational presentations were made to the Council throughout the year.
- The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Council continues to do double duty, playing an integral part in both the operation of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and the designation process to consider a sanctuary in that region. Major accomplishments include providing advice on the fisheries alternates for the proposed sanctuary.

Early 2005 saw completion of the fifth annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting. The meeting was co-hosted by the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries in San Francisco and Olema, California on February 7 – 11. The meeting is described below.

Report of 2005 Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting

This year's Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting was co-hosted by the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries on February 7-11. Representatives from all of the NMSP's eleven Councils, staff from the eleven sites that have Councils, staff from sites currently establishing Councils, and the NMSP's headquarters staff attended the meeting. An observer from NOAA's Marine Protected Area Center attended as well. There were 44 participants in all (Table 2), as well as a number of presenters.

The meeting began in San Francisco on Monday, February 7 with an informal discussion session with Council Coordinators from across the NMSP. Topics discussed during the session included: national Council support updates; Council coordinator training; the parameters for holding a Council retreat; privacy issues in member selection; and a variety of other "housekeeping" issues.

Tuesday, February 8, was spent on national reports, case studies, and presentations by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, NOAA's Marine Protected Areas Center, and NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources. The Director of the NMSP, Daniel Basta, provided the welcome and introduction to the meeting. The case studies presented by each Council Chair highlight one major issue or project faced by the Council during the past year, with a focus on actions taken by the Council, decisions made or actions taken by the Manager, and lessons learned.

Table 2: Meeting Participants

Allamanda Amituana'i	Coordinator, Fagatele Bay
Lori Arguelles	Director, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
Julie Barrow	Coordinator, Gulf of the Farallones
Daniel J. Basta	Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program
Keeley Belva	Coordinator, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
David Bizot	Policy Analyst, NMSP
Maria Brown	Manager, Gulf of the Farallones
Karen Brubeck	National Coordinator, NMSP
Jim Brye	Council Member, Channel Islands
Nicole Capps	Coordinator, Monterey Bay
Jim Coon	Council Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
June Cradick	Policy Analyst, NMSP
Jack Curlett	Council Member, Florida Keys
Barbara Emley	Chair, Gulf of the Farallones
April Fendley	Administrative Coordinator, Gray's Reef
Rowena Forest	Coordinator, Cordell Bank
Rod Fujita	Member, Marine Protected Areas Fed'l Advisory Committee
Marcy Golde	Council Member, Olympic Coast
Dan Howard	Manager, Cordell Bank
Margo Jackson	Senior Policy Advisor, NMSP
Carol Keiper	Chair, Cordell Bank
Jacklyn Kelly	Council Specialist, Channel Islands
Ed Lindelof	Management Plan Team Lead, NMSP
Elizabeth Moore	Acting Chief, Conservation Policy /Planning Branch, NMSP
Michael Murray	Coordinator, Channel Islands
George Neugent	Member, Florida Keys
Moani Pai	Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Andrew Palmer	Coordinator, Olympic Coast
Linda Paul	Vice Chair, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Bruce Popham	Chair, Florida Keys
Jean Prevo	Coordinator, Thunder Bay
Rachael Saunders	Community/Public Relations Coordinator, Monterey Bay
Carol Shafto	Chair, Thunder Bay
Becky Shortland	Coordinator, Gray's Reef
Matt Stout	Chief, Communications Branch, NMSP
Deborah Streeter	Chair, Monterey Bay
Allen Tom	Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator, NMSP
Krista Trono	Coordinator, Monitor
Vicki Wedell	Policy Analyst, NMSP
Lauren Wenzel	Marine Protected Areas Center, NOAA Ocean Service
Phil Williams	Office of Protected Resources, NOAA Fisheries
John Williamson	Chair, Stellwagen Bank
Fiona Wilmot	Coordinator, Florida Keys
Judy Wright	Chair, Gray's Reef

Wednesday, February 9, began with field trips to Crissy Marsh Restoration Project at The Presidio National Park and Point Bonita Lighthouse at the Marin Headlands, Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Meeting participants then traveled to Olema for the balance of the meeting. The afternoon consisted of additional case studies and a management plan review session. The Chairs ended the day with an informal discussion.

On Thursday February 10, Carol Keiper, Cordell Bank Council Chair, and Barbara Emley, Gulf of the Farallones Council Chair, co-chaired a meeting of the Chairs of the eleven site-specific Councils. The purpose was to obtain input on the following national policy topics as selected by the Councils: cruise ships, marine reserves, and aquaculture. The NMSP also provided updates to the Chairs on the following topics: reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, NMSP Strategic Plan, updates on policy topics discussed during 2004 meeting, NMSP maritime heritage activities, and NMSP telepresence projects. The meeting was open to the public and three individuals provided public comment, including Bluewater Network. The information from this session will provide continued guidance on a number of policy topics. The Chairs, operating under the Council of Chairs Charter, voted to draft a letter of welcome to the new Secretary of Commerce. The draft letter is currently being reviewed by each Council.

On Friday, February 11, the remainder of the case studies were presented and the meeting adjourned. The case studies from the Councils covered a wide range of subjects, including Biscayne National Park Fisheries Management Plan, evaluation of Council membership, use of working groups to help a sanctuary address priority issues, designation, anthropogenic noise in the marine environment, Council retreats and lunches, engaging fishermen in management plan reviews, and a Marine Research Area Working Group. This wide range of topics demonstrates the diversity of issues and concerns being addressed by each sanctuary and its Council.



Dan Basta welcomes the participants of the 2005 Chairs and Coordinators Workshop. (photo: Alan Cradick)

Conclusions and Future Priorities

This year's meeting was a success by all measures, capping another banner year for the NMSP's Councils. The NMSP spent about \$1.3 million in 2004 (including staff time) supporting the Councils and their working groups and subcommittees. In 2004, over 800 individuals provided over 25,000 hours of their time and energy helping the NMSP by serving as members of Advisory Councils and their working groups and subcommittees. That time is worth about \$450,000. In 2005, in recognition of this extraordinary contribution, of thirteen nominations (one from each sanctuary) received for the National Marine Sanctuary foundation's Volunteer of the Year award, eight were either Council members or Council Chairs. A ninth serves on several Council working groups.

The Councils within the NMSP are at a tipping point. The NMSP is on the verge of having a Council at every site and has worked with Councils for fifteen years. The Councils have matured and are coming into their own. So what is next?

In 2005, the NMSP will continue to support Councils at the national level by:

- completing and printing the 3rd annual Sanctuary Advisory Council National Report (this document, April 2005);
- updating the Council Member Directory (September 2005);
- developing and updating a Council page for the internet site (Summer 2005);
- continuing to update the intranet site for Coordinators (ongoing);
- conducting training for the Council coordinators (September 2005);
- revising the Council Implementation Handbook (June 2005);
- providing assistance to the three sites establishing Councils (ongoing); and
- planning next year's Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting in Washington D.C. (Spring 2006).

Participants of the 2005 Chairs and Coordinators Workshop listen to a presentation. (photo: Alan Cradick)



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is located off the coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara, California and encompasses 1,658 square miles of the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents results in a great variety of plants and animals, including: large nearshore forests of giant kelp, flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates, and abundant and diverse populations of cetaceans, pinnipeds, and marine birds. The site was designated in September 1980 and began a review of its management plan in 1999.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1998 to enhance opportunities for public involvement in sanctuary management and to support the process of management plan revision. The Council has twenty-one voting members, ten representing various local, state, and federal government partners and eleven representing a variety of community interests (conservation, education, research, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism, non-consumptive recreation, business, Chumash community and the public at-large). The Council meets bi-monthly and has formed a number of active working groups, including those focused on conservation, commercial fishing, recreational fishing, education and research.

Major Achievements and Milestones

In 2004, the Council unanimously adopted a set of recommendations put forth by the Conservation Working Group that call for the sanctuary to begin addressing potential sanctuary marine life impacts from anthropogenic noise sources such as large vessel traffic. Development of a comprehensive report on the subject and an associated educational process that the Council and sanctuary staff experienced evolved over the course of a year and culminated in the Council's unanimous support for asking that the sanctuary, in conjunction with partners, take progressive steps with regard to scientific and policy-based research and inquiries. The Council's recommendations call for increased research on noise sources and associated effects on marine life, investigation of partnership development between the sanctuary and other agencies and



San Miguel is the westernmost island in the sanctuary, strongly influenced by wind and weather. The colder waters here support a distinct group of fish and invertebrates that are less common near the southern islands. (photo: Glenn Allen)

industries, and consideration of policy options for mitigating threats from noise sources such as large vessel traffic.

Also in 2004 the Council made a number of important recommendations that helped shape the sanctuary's approach to consideration of establishing marine reserves (no-take zones) and/or marine conservation areas (limited-take areas) to complement the existing network of twelve protected areas established by the State of California in 2003 within the sanctuary (also referred to as the "Phase 2" process to consider additional protected areas).

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

Throughout the year, the Conservation Working Group led efforts to research the issue of anthropogenic noise as a potential threat to sanctuary marine life. At the September 2004 meeting, the Council voted unanimously to forward to the sanctuary manager the Conservation Working Group's final report, *Anthropogenic Noise and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*, which includes a suite of research-based recommendations. The Council's approved motion also included a request that sanctuary staff report back to the Council on steps that can be taken to implement the recommendations. Since receiving these recommendations in September, the sanctuary has thus far taken two specific steps. First, a graduate student sanctuary internship was created to support the study and development of a report on policy alternatives for mitigating noise pollution from commercial shipping in the sanctuary. Secondly, the sanctuary has held initial discussions with the NOAA Fisheries Office of Protected Resources that suggest the possibility of a partnership-based inquiry into many of the Council's recommendations.

In the summer of 2004, the Council was a key participant in helping to shape a forthcoming sanctuary draft environmental impact statement on consideration of establishment of marine reserves and/or conservation areas within the sanctuary to complement the existing network of state-designated protected areas. At the September meeting, the entire Council provided input to the sanctuary in an exercise that generated a lengthy list of substantive comments that were agreed to by a consensus of all representatives in attendance. These important comments were focused on improvement of the preliminary document to assist staff in developing it into a full fledged draft environmental impact statement. Upon receipt of these written comments, the sanctuary staff shared them with NMSP leadership and the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Staff have since been working to incorporate the Council's advice into the draft environmental impact statement and will continue to provide the Council with progress reports on this work.

In November 2003, the Council voted 14-2-0 to send a letter to the newly elected California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger with regard to concerns about state budget uncertainties and the potential for impacts to providing adequate monitoring and enforcement of the state marine reserves established within the sanctuary.

Based on work done by the Conservation Working Group to understand and highlight a need for improved tracking of the nearly 6,500 large shipping vessels annually transiting within and adjacent to the sanctuary, the Council voted to send a letter to the Marine Exchange of Southern California to express support for installation of an Automated Secure Vessel Traffic System that could extend monitoring of vessels to the Channel Islands region.

Major Administrative Changes

Nine appointments to non-governmental seats were made throughout the year and two new government seat representatives joined. Among these appointments was the introduction of two new seats: Recreational Fishing and Chumash Community.

The Council expressed general support for staff increasing efforts to notify the Council when the sanctuary intends to write a letter to another agency regarding a proposed or considered action, especially if the issue at hand is likely to be of interest to the Council or certain members and is directly relevant to the sanctuary. Similarly, there was support expressed for agency members of the Council to help other members know in advance when proposed actions or decisions are coming up, and how the public and possibly the Council might get involved in commenting.

The Council has five active working groups: Recreational, Commercial Fishing, Conservation, Research Activities Panel and the Sanctuary Education Team. In 2004, four working groups switched to an “inactive” status: Business, Military Activities, Ports and Harbors, and the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Enforcement.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary’s website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1989 and encompassing 526 square miles, protects a very productive offshore seamount on the west coast, where the combination of ocean conditions and undersea topography creates a highly diverse marine community. The bank rises to within 115 feet of the sea surface with water depths of 6,000 feet only a few miles west. The prevailing California Current flows southward along the coast, and the upwelling of nutrient rich, deep ocean waters stimulates the growth of organisms at all levels of the marine food web. It is a destination feeding ground for many marine mammals and seabirds. The site is located 60 miles northwest of San Francisco, California.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council for Cordell Bank was established in 2002 to support the joint management plan review process currently underway for the sanctuary and its neighboring sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay. The Council has members representing education, research, conservation, maritime activity, and the community-at-large. The only government seat is held by a representative from the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council holds four regular meetings per year, and one in the summer for an annual retreat.

Major Achievements and Milestones

In 2004, members of the Council made recommendations to develop a monthly at-sea biological monitoring program for the sanctuary. This program held its maiden voyage in January 2004 and has successfully run a monitoring trip every month of 2004 except one, to monitor for seabirds, marine mammals, oceanographic events, and weather at the sanctuary. Council members were instrumental in the design and development of this program, and have participated in monthly monitoring cruises.

A jewel-like top snail pictured with some closed strawberry anemones on the surface of Cordell Bank. (photo: Cordell Bank Expeditions)



The Council participated in the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the sanctuary. An anniversary event took place at the Cordell Bank offices in Olema, CA, on October 2nd, 2004.

The Council hosted the annual National Marine Sanctuary Chairs and Coordinators meeting that took place in February 2005. The meeting was held in San Francisco and Olema, CA, and was co-hosted with Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council participated in the management plan review process that led to a draft plan for the management of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Council members also provided comments on reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Major Administrative Changes

Brian Mulvey replaced Jim Bybee for the government seat position on the Council. Brian is a representative from the National Marine Fisheries Service. Rowena Forest was hired as the Council Coordinator.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.cordellbank.nos.noaa.gov/council/welcome.html>.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1990 and encompasses 3,801 square miles of waters around the archipelago of the Florida Keys. The sanctuary supports a diverse assemblage of underwater plants and animals in coral reef habitat, fringing mangroves, seagrass meadows and hard bottom areas. This complex ecosystem that abuts Everglades National Park, Biscayne National Park and encompasses Dry Tortugas National Park as well as three National Wildlife Refuges is the foundation for the tourism and commercial fishing-based economies that sustain south Florida.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

Established in 1991, it is the oldest of the Councils and has 20 members covering a wide spectrum of interests in the Florida Keys community, including boating, conservation, diving, education, Everglades restoration, fishing (commercial and recreational), government, maritime heritage, research, tourism and the community-at-large. The Council meets bimonthly and currently has three working groups: Waterfront Access Working Group, Spearfishing Tournament Working Group and a Global Warming Working Group. Ad hoc committees have been formed to deal with other one-time issues.

Major Achievements and Milestones

Two large Working Groups concluded their missions in 2004. The Large Vessel Working Group arrived at consensus recommendations to pass to the full Council, which were in turn discussed, amended and forwarded to sanctuary managers. They recommended additional monitoring of the Navy maintenance dredging of Key West Harbor and Shipping Channel. They recommended adoption of Monterey Bay Council's resolution concerning cruise ship discharges, with minor modifications.

The Biscayne National Park Fisheries Management Plan Working Group, after six day-long meetings over the course of 9 months, produced recommendations that a majority of the Council could support and forward to management on Desired Future Conditions for the Park. The two most divisive issues, marine protected areas and a user fee to support education and enforcement in the Park, were not recommended to the Council. The Council opted to include language in favor of the inclusion of Natural Resource Areas in the General Management Plan to sanctuary managers.

Fourteen new Council members were appointed in October. Commercial Fishing alternate Tony Iarocci received the J. Paul Getty Wildlife Conservation Prize in December for his outstanding contributions to marine conservation in Florida, Mexico, Nicaragua and Alaska. In the Florida Keys he was particularly instrumental in gaining acceptance for the Tortugas Ecological Reserve among commercial fishermen. This is only the second time that an American has received the award; he joins people like Jane Goodall, Sir Peter Scott and the Charles Darwin Foundation.

The Florida Keys lost a leader with the untimely death of another Council member and commercial fisherman Peter Gladding to cancer. Peter was also a leader in gaining acceptance for the Tortugas Ecological Reserve and worked to promote marine reserves in Belize. At the 57th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute held in St. Petersburg, FL in November, the First Annual Peter Gladding Travel Award was made to former Council member Don DeMaria for a commercial fisherman to attend the meeting. Mary

Gladding accepted a posthumous award for Peter at the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting held in Miami in December.

In August, Council members participated in and presented at a meeting held by the sanctuary in Key West. *Connectivity: Science, People and Policy in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary* was well attended. Chair George Neugent received an award, as did working group chairs Nancy Klingener and Don Kincaid.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

A number of recommendations were made by the Council to sanctuary managers during the course of the year that require regulatory changes. These (mostly increased protection for sensitive areas) will call for additional Wildlife Management Areas, No Wake, Idle Speed Only areas and marker buoys to be installed. These changes will be undertaken after the revised management plan has been completed.

The Council recommended that the Army Corps of Engineers conduct a Supplemental Environmental Impact Survey on the controversial widening of the 18 Mile Stretch, the road linking the Keys to the mainland, which passes through mangroves, sawgrass and cypress hammocks. The current roadbed interrupts tidal flow between two basins, inhibiting exchange of water and larvae.

Recommendations from the Council were forwarded by the Superintendent to the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission concerning permit bag and vessel limits, in response to wholesale harvesting of spawning aggregations on artificial reefs by recreational fishermen in sanctuary waters; recommendations also went forward concerning limited entry into the marine life fishery in Florida.

Major Administrative Changes

After nearly 30 years with the federal government, June Cradick retired from full-time employment as Project Manager with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Her position included coordinating the Council. She continues to work on policy matters for the NMSP from her new home in North Carolina.

George Neugent graciously resigned from the chairmanship of the Council after over 5 years of service during some difficult times. Bruce Popham accepted the mantle. Ken Nedimyer replaces ex-chair Fran Decker as the new vice-chair.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/>.

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Gray's Reef is one of the largest nearshore rocky reefs in the southeastern United States. The sanctuary is located 17.5 nautical miles off Sapelo Island, Georgia. It was named in recognition of Milton B. Gray, a taxonomist and curator at the University of Georgia Marine Institute who studied the area in the 1960s. The sanctuary boundary protects 16.68 square nautical miles of open ocean and hard bottom. Although it is estimated that 75 percent of the hard bottom is covered by sand, rock outcroppings scattered throughout the sanctuary form a complex habitat of burrows, troughs, and overhangs some 60 to 70 feet below the Atlantic Ocean's surface. The rocky ridges and their associated attached organisms are commonly referred to as "live bottom," a habitat of particular biological importance given the extensive sands that cover most of the broad continental shelf. The rocky bottom is carpeted with corals, sponges, and other invertebrates. This flourishing ecosystem attracts mackerel, grouper, black sea bass, angelfish, and a host of other fishes. Loggerhead sea turtles, a threatened species, also use the sanctuary year-round for foraging and resting, and the reef is also close to the winter calving ground for the highly endangered Northern right whale. The sanctuary is one of the most popular sport fishing and diving areas along the Georgia coast.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council is one of the smallest, at fourteen members covering conservation, education, research, fishing and diving, and federal and state agency partners. The Council was formed in 1999 in support of the site's management plan review that began the same year. The Council meets as necessary or approximately every 3-4 months.

These red branching sponges are found all along the live bottom habitat at Gray's Reef. They usually have numerous tubes that extend from the main branch from the base mass. (photo: Steve Gittings)



Major Achievements and Milestones/ Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

Review and revision of the sanctuary's 1983 Management Plan was the primary focus for Council activities from 1999 through the early part of 2004. The Council met in January to review public comment on the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement, which had been released in October 2003. The Council is transitioning to focus on implementation and evaluation of the plan. Although the document may not be final until mid-2005, the Council chose to establish a working group to begin investigation of a marine research area in the sanctuary. The working group, which is comprised of a broad base of interests and several Council members, met twice in 2004 to examine the needs, goals and objectives, and design of such an area. A final meeting and report of the working group findings is expected in mid-2005.

Major Administrative Changes

The Council added three new seats in 2004. The Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve (SINERR) was added as an ex-officio seat in October 2004. In December, members forwarded a recommendation to the site to add two new seats: one non-government seat for charter/commercial (for profit) fishing, and one government (ex-officio) seat for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement (GADNR LE). The recommendation was approved by the sanctuary manager.

One Council seat already exists for sport fishing. The definition of the constituency of that seat will encompass any allowable recreational take of fish in sanctuary waters. The constituency of the existing dive seat will be broadened to include dive operators, clubs, and shops. While the U.S. Coast Guard has a seat on the Council, it was felt that GADNR LE has an increasing role at the sanctuary due to a Joint Enforcement Agreement with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. SINERR is an increasingly important agency partner.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.graysreef.nos.noaa.gov/sac.html>.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), situated along the California coast north and west of San Francisco, includes nurseries and spawning grounds for commercially valuable fish species, at least 36 species of marine mammals, and 15 species of breeding seabirds. One fifth of California's harbor seals breed within the sanctuary. The Farallon Islands are home to the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States. The Sanctuary boundaries include the coastline up to mean high tide, protecting open ocean and an number of lagoons and estuaries, bays and beaches for the public. GFNMS was designated in 1981 and covers 1,255 square miles. Its proximity to the San Francisco Bay Area's human population of nearly 8 million makes the Farallones sanctuary one of the most complex sites in the Program to administer. The sanctuary works to balance the needs of its wildlife resources with the needs of the public.

In February 2004 the National Marine Sanctuary Program announced that with the exception of water quality issues, the Farallones sanctuary would assume management responsibilities for the area of Monterey Bay NMS from the San Mateo/Santa Cruz county line north to the existing boundary between the two sanctuaries.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was established in 2001 to support the joint management plan review process now underway for the GFNMS and its neighboring sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay. Among the smallest of the eleven Councils, its members represent the areas of education, research, maritime activities and the community at large, as well as the GFNMS's primary partner, the National Park Service. The advisory council also plays a critical role in facilitating dialogue between sanctuary management and the area's many and varied user groups and constituents. In addition to raising constituent concerns with sanctuary management, the council is responsible for carrying the messages, programs, accomplishments and issues of the marine sanctuary out to the groups each member represents.



Black-necked stilts rest in the shallow water of an estuary in the Gulf of the Farallones. (photo: Gulf of the Farallones NMS)

The Council holds quarterly regular meetings . Meeting locations are alternated between northern, central and southern ends of the sanctuary's jurisdiction. This fall the council took part in a retreat which included communications training. In December the council met jointly with the Monterey Bay NMS council to discuss issues related to the northern management area. Several council members also participated in ad hoc working groups.

Major Issues / Council Recommendations / Sanctuary Decisions

The Joint Management Plan Review again was the principal activity in which the council was engaged in 2004. An ecosystem protection strategy was used in formulating action plans for areas including Education and Outreach, Fishing Activities, Wildlife Disturbance, Water Quality, Invasive Species, Vessel Spills, Resource Protection, and Research and Monitoring. The council advised the sanctuary manager with regard to ranking the proposed Action Plans, given staffing and budgetary projections.

- The council identified the following as issues of concern, and requested that they be brought to the National Council Chair's meeting as national program priorities: Acoustic impacts, motorized personal watercraft (jet skis), aquaculture, artificial reefs and invasive species.
- The council established an ad hoc working group to track water quality issues affecting the watersheds of the Estero Americano and the Estero de San Antonio.
- Council members took part in ad hoc working group on ecosystem health matters related to the reconstitution of the Marine Life Protection Act as it affects sanctuary waters.

Major Administrative Changes

- The council established liaisons with the Monterey sanctuary to facilitate inter-site communication and cooperation.
- The council also recommend the charter be renewed, with the addition of a voting governmental seat.

Plans in 2005

In 2005, with the release of the Revised Management Plan, the council will take part in public hearings and continue to advise the Sanctuary Manager on final management plan issues throughout the year. Four meetings and a retreat will be held to address various issues and focus council's efforts on other aspects of the sanctuary. Vacancies and new positions on the council will be filled. Also, a field trip will be scheduled to acquaint council members more fully with the various habitats of Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary lies within the shallow (less than 600 feet), warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands and constitutes one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Scientists estimate that two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrate to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in breeding, calving, and nursing activities. The continued protection of humpback whales and their habitat is crucial to the long-term recovery of this endangered species. The sanctuary was designated in 1992 and encompasses 1,370 square miles.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

Formed in 1992, the Council is one of the older Councils and also the largest at 31 members. Representatives cover all facets of the sanctuary community, including conservation, education, research, fishing, whale watching, tourism, recreation, shipping, business/commerce, Native Hawaiian, individual islands, the community at large, and a number of state and federal partners. The Council has formed three subcommittees for education, research, and conservation that meet on a frequent basis; the whole Council generally meets quarterly.

Major Achievements and Milestones

Throughout the year, the Council continued to focus on measures aimed at mitigating whale-vessel collisions. The Research Subcommittee developed a proposal for a study to investigate a reporting system that would allow whale-vessel collisions to be made by mariners anonymously. A recent survey of the whale-vessel collision reports made since 1975 revealed that the number of collisions between humpback whales and vessels in Hawai'i have been steadily increasing, particularly over the past decade. However, there is a degree of probability that the number of collisions occurring each year may be under-reported by mariners who may be reluctant to document reports under the present system for fear of being investigated or cited.

Humpback whales can generally be seen in Hawaiian waters between December and April. It is believed that while the whales are in Hawaii they do not engage in feeding activities, rather they concentrate on mating, calving and rearing their young. (photo: National Marine Fisheries Service)



Photo: National Marine Fisheries Service

The purpose of the study would be to investigate the extent to which allowing anonymous reports to be made would change the number of incidents reported annually. The Boater Outreach Working Group continued its efforts to advise the sanctuary on how best to educate boaters about the sanctuary and issues regarding humpback whales and their habitat. With the help of the working group, informational signs to guide mariners on safe boating practices around humpback whales have been developed and will be posted at small boat harbors around the state for the 2005 whale season.

The Council held its second annual retreat and planning session on December 2-3, at the new sanctuary office in Hawai‘i Kai (Honolulu). The entire Council met on the first day to develop goals for an action plan for 2005. On the second day the newly formed Executive Subcommittee (consisting of elected Council officers and chairs of the subcommittees and working groups) met to further discuss and implement action items from the previous day.

In 2004, with the strong support of Council members, the sanctuary opened up its newest field office in Kona. With this latest addition on the island of Hawai‘i, there is now sanctuary staff on the four islands in the state (Hawai‘i, Kaua‘i, Maui, and O‘ahu). The O‘ahu office also moved to its new location and is now co-located with offices for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and the Pacific Region.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

In 2004, the Council discussed and carried out the following actions:

- The Council passed a resolution and wrote a letter to Governor Linda Lingle supporting additional pump-out facilities in small boat harbors around the islands to minimize vessel discharges.
- The Council passed a resolution and wrote a letter in support of regular monitoring of waste water systems aboard cruise ships.
- The Council drafted a resolution in support of increasing funding to the sanctuary in order to carry out more comprehensive research, monitoring, and education programs.

Major Administrative Changes

New members and/or alternates were selected for the following seats: business/commerce, citizen at large, commercial shipping, conservation, education, ocean recreation, tourism, and whale watching.

An Executive Subcommittee made up of elected Council officers and the chairs of the committees and working groups was established to work more directly with sanctuary management and staff.

Founding Council member and vice chair Dr. Walter Haas passed away on November 9, 2004 after a short illness. Dr. Haas was actively involved in many sanctuary activities since the sanctuary’s designation, and was a dedicated member of the Council. His contributions and enthusiasm for the sanctuary will be sorely missed.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary’s website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.hihwnms.nos.noaa.gov/sac/sac.html>.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated in 1992 as the nation's largest sanctuary, spanning over 5,300 square miles of coastal waters off central California, from Cambria in the south to San Francisco and Marin County in the north. Within its boundaries are a rich array of habitats, from rugged rocky shores and lush kelp forests to one of the deepest underwater canyons in North America. These habitats abound with life, from tiny plants to huge blue whales. With its great diversity of habitats and life, the sanctuary is a national focus for marine research and education and stewardship.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council is one of the oldest, established in 1994. It is also one of the largest, with 20 voting members representing such diverse interests as conservation, education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, recreation, harbors/ports, business/industry, agriculture, and the community at large, as well as local or state agency partners such as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, California Department of Fish and Game, the state Coastal Commission, California EPA, regional Water Quality boards, California State Parks and the California State Resources agency. Non-voting federal agency representatives include the Coast Guard, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Reserve and the managers of the three other California sanctuaries. The Council meets bimonthly and at different locations throughout the sanctuary. Its four working groups (Conservation, Education, Research, and Business and Tourism) meet more frequently.

Major Issues / Council Recommendations / Sanctuary Decisions

1) Management Plan Review and Prioritization

The Council entered its fourth year of taking part in the management plan review process. They recommended 21 action plans on ecosystem protection, water quality, coastal development, wildlife disturbance and partnership issues such as interpretive facilities, multicultural outreach, fishing education and research and ecosystem monitoring. The staff estimated the costs of implementing all the action plans would



In many places along the California coast, visitors can observe sea lions congregating in large groups called rafts. (photo: Kip Evans)

be three times the current budget and asked the Council for advice on how to prioritize the phasing-in of the plan over 5 years. Each Council member (and some of the working groups) took part in an exercise to rank each action plan in terms of urgency and benefit, as it relates to the four purposes of the sanctuary (resource protection, education/outreach, research and multiple use). The final numbers were tabulated with some clear priorities, but the Council decided not to formalize any ranking from most to least important. Rather they spent considerable time explaining to the staff the reasoning behind their choices.

2) Northern Management Area

In March Dan Basta announced that the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary staff would assume management responsibility for the northern area of the Monterey Bay sanctuary, except for the water quality program. He also decided that the boundaries of the two sanctuaries would not change and that Monterey Bay regulations would apply in this Northern Management area. The Monterey Bay Council expressed concerns before and after this decision and advised the staff on transition issues. They appointed a liaison to the Gulf of the Farallones Council. The two Councils held their first annual joint meeting in December to discuss issues in the Northern Management Area that the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary must now implement, in particular marine protected areas, personal motorized watercraft and tow-in surfing, water quality issues, and enforcement. The two Councils agreed to stay in contact, share ideas and concerns and learn from each other's style of providing advice.

3) Monterey Bay Council Membership

The Advisory Council did an extensive self evaluation on how each member does outreach and receives input from the public and/or their constituents. The charge of the subcommittee is to better implement the goals of the process a subcommittee recommended adding a recreational fishing seat to the Advisory Council. They also recommended studying how to include more direct input from Federal fishing agencies, perhaps with a non-voting seat.

4) Conversations with Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

One of the local government associations in the sanctuary held public meetings to discuss Council governance issues, such as how members are chosen, whether Council members should be required to file conflict of interest/financial disclosure statement, and whether federal law should be changed to allow the Council to write to Congress. The Council has consistently voted for several years that it does not find these issues to be a priority on par with other issues they recommended be included in the management plan. (A number of these issues are also governed by national policy.) Various Council members attended these meetings, and AMBAG members were invited to attend Council meetings. Advisory Council members, working groups and sanctuary staff continued to work to enhance relations with local governments and increase public outreach.

5) Department of Defense, the Marine Mammal Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act

When reports appeared in the press that the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004 allowed for the military to be exempt from regulations preventing harassment of marine mammal and endangered species, the Council sought clarification from Admiral Lautenbacher on the exact nature of the exemption and how regulations would be enforced with regard to military activities. Ms. Donna Wieting, Deputy Director for the NMFS Office of Protected Resources, gave a presentation to the Council on the new regulations. Some Council members continue to seek clarification on these questions.

6) Self evaluation by Working Groups

All four of the working groups spent time reviewing their purposes, membership, outreach, role in relation to advising staff, and input needed from the sanctuary.

Council meetings also included comments from the public and updates from sanctuary staff on current issues and projects. Some of the topics of the last year presented to the Council were: continuing plans for the new interpretive center in Santa Cruz, the new research vessel, regional workshops on sediment, desalination, wildlife viewing guidelines, multicultural education, California state ocean legislation, public outreach events, the permitting process, watershed issues and programs, and budget concerns.

Major Administrative Changes

During 2004 the following new members joined the Council: Margaret Webb (citizen-at-large primary), Robert Frischmuth (citizen-at-large alternate), Howard Egan (fishing alternate, and later appointed Recreation fishing primary), Steve Shimek (conservation alternate), Nancy Black (business/industry primary) Anjanette Adams (business/industry alternate), Gary Pezzi, (recreation alternate), Tim Frahm (agriculture alternate), Steve Clark (education alternate), and Joe Stoops (recreational fishing alternate).

The Council elected Deborah Streeter (at large, primary) as its chair and Tom Canale (fishing primary) as Vice Chair. Dan Haifley (recreation primary) continued as Secretary.

The Council honored Stephanie Harlan (AMBAG primary) as she completed four years as chair. Harlan was also honored by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation as volunteer of the year in ceremonies in Washington, DC in June.

The Council mourned the death of AMBAG alternate and long time sanctuary advocate Ruth Vreeland in an automobile accident. The Council voted to support the establishment of a Ruth Vreeland memorial fund as proposed by the Monterey Bay sanctuary and Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation in support of education for children concerning marine conservation.

For the first time since designation the Council voted to add a new seat: recreational fishing. They also voted to change the Coast Guard seat to a non-voting seat, per the Coast Guard's request.

For Additional Information

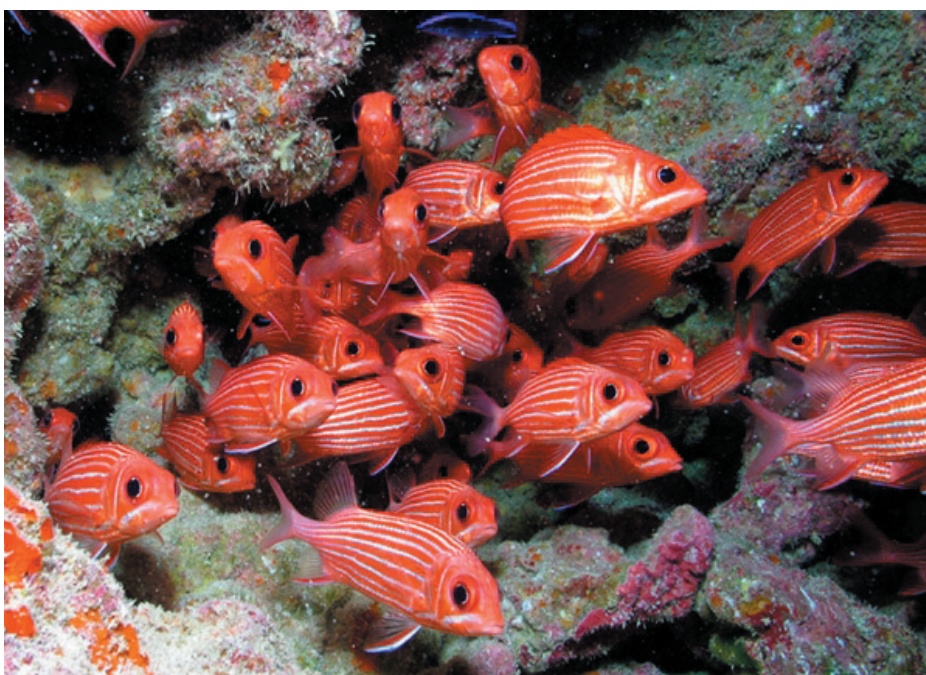
Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/intro/advisory/advisory.html>.



Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve/Proposed Sanctuary

Site Profile

The expansive coral reef ecosystems of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) encompass an array of natural, cultural, and historic resources unique to Hawai‘i, the United States, and the world. The coral reefs are the foundation of ecosystems that host distinctive assemblages of marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, birds, algae, and invertebrates. Federally protected species include the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle, several resident cetacean species and millions of migratory seabirds. The coral reefs and lands that support these species represent an amazing biological evolution that includes one of the highest rates of marine endemism found in the world’s oceans. These diverse natural resources are complemented by the area’s cultural and historical significance. Archaeological sites and artifacts on Mokumanamana and Nihoa demonstrate usage and inhabitation of the area by early Hawaiians and oral histories document continued access to marine resources into the present day. Native Hawaiian cultural access voyages to the NWHI in recent years are breathing new life into the historical connection of all the islands of the Hawaiian Archipelago. The area played a role during early European exploration of the archipelago and the Pacific whaling era, as well as a pivotal role in the World War II including the Battle of Midway, considered to be the most decisive U.S. victory and the turning point of the Pacific war. The NWHI were declared a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by Executive Order in 2000 and are presently being considered as a National Marine sanctuary through a designation process that began in 2001.



One of many species of fish found in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. (photo: NHWICRER)

Reserve Advisory Council Profile

The Reserve Council was established in 2001 to provide advice on the operation of the Reserve and the sanctuary designation process. Twenty-five members represent a broad spectrum of interest groups, including conservation, education, research, recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, Native Hawaiians, and the community at large, as well as ten state and federal agency partners. The Council generally meets quarterly.

Major Achievements and Milestones

The year 2004 was another busy year for the Council whereby advice was given on both Reserve operations and sanctuary designation. Three two-day meetings, one one-day meeting and one briefing were held. The three major achievements of the Council included submitting comments on the final Reserve Operations Plan, providing advice on the Goals and Objectives Statement and also providing advice on the fisheries alternatives for the proposed sanctuary.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

Among the major resolutions passed by the Council were:

- Vision, Mission and Management Principles for the proposed sanctuary;
- Non-fishing Goals and Objectives for the proposed sanctuary;
- Fishing Goal and Objectives for the proposed sanctuary;
- Comments on the Draft Final Reserve Operations Plan;
- Comments on the state proposed rules for the NWHI Marine Refuge; and
- Proposed sanctuary fisheries alternatives.

Major Administrative Changes

In 2004, the Council selected a new Native Hawaiian member and two new research alternates, and added a new “304(a)(5)” Working Group. The Council also disbanded two subcommittees that were created in 2003 because their tasks were completed and their goals accomplished. They were the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives Subcommittee that helped to refine language for the vision, mission, goals, and objectives for the proposed sanctuary and the Fishing Issues Subcommittee, which helped to review and discuss the issues related to fishing and their alternatives for the proposed sanctuary.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary’s website for additional information about the Council at <http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/council/welcome.html>.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary spans 3,310-square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline, from Cape Flattery south to the mouth of the Copalis River, and extending 25 to 50 miles seaward. The sanctuary covers much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons, and protects a productive upwelling zone—home to a rich diversity of marine mammal and seabirds, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of the Makah, Hoh, and Quileute tribes and Quinault Nation. The sanctuary was designated in July 1994.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was established in 1995 and has twenty-one members, including fifteen voting members representing conservation, education, research, fishing, tourism, harbors/ports, community at large, local governments, and the four Native American tribes of the region. Six ex-officio, non-voting seats represent the sanctuary's federal partners (Olympic National Park, NOAA Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Navy) and the Northwest Straits Commission. The Council meets bimonthly. The Council has three standing committees – the Executive Subcommittee, the Resource Protection Subcommittee, and the Education/Outreach Subcommittee, to assist the work of the Council. In addition, there are three working groups—Research, Marine Conservation, and Marine Safety—that provide additional support and information to the Council and sanctuary.

Major Achievements and Milestones

In January the Council adopted the full report of the Marine Conservation Working Group's Intertidal Zoning Report. The report summarized the two and one half year process that the group undertook to evaluate the need for additional zoning within the sanctuary, including specific recommendations targeted at the protection and restoration of intertidal habitats. The report documented areas of agreement and disagreement within the

Ochre sea stars are voracious predators in the intertidal zone. Feeding on mussels and other mollusks, they limit the range of these species. (photo: Nancy Sefton)



working group over specific proposals for intertidal zoning. The Council recommended accepting the report and transmitting it to the Superintendent for her consideration. In February 2004, Council Chair Terrie Klinger presented the Marine Conservation Working Group process to the Annual Chairs/Coordinators meeting in Savannah, Georgia as a case study.

Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

In January 2004, the Council adopted and forwarded the Intertidal Zoning Report to the Superintendent. As mentioned above, the report outlines the issues in protecting various intertidal areas of the sanctuary and discusses zoning tools that could be applied in the stewardship of these areas. The Superintendent accepted the report and conducted further consultations with tribes and Olympic National Park regarding the range of recommendations. After completing those consultations, the National Marine Sanctuary Program decided to more fully consider the recommendations during the forthcoming review of the sanctuary management plan.

In March 2004, the Council adopted a resolution asking the Superintendent to request that Washington State Department of Ecology and the Northwest Cruise Ship Association apply the provisions in their Memorandum of Understanding on cruise ship discharges to all the waters of the sanctuary, not just the state waters. The Superintendent concurred with the recommendations and forwarded the letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The Council also endorsed the 2004 Coastal Cleanup project.

In May, the Council adopted a letter to Washington Governor Gary Locke containing comments on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy Report supporting creation of regional councils with membership for the sanctuary, greater attention be paid to tribal co-management roles, increased research funding within the sanctuary, and linkages with Canadian counterparts, among other recommendations. The Superintendent concurred with the comments and forwarded the letter to Governor Gary Locke.

At the September meeting, the Council adopted a resolution to the Superintendent urging support for full funding for the management plan review process (aka Navigating the Future) in order to achieve desired outcomes. The Superintendent concurred with the recommendations and forwarded the letter to Dan Basta, NMSP Director, for his consideration.

In September, the Council also adopted a letter of support for the sanctuary proposal to the NOAA's Office of Ocean Exploration for funds to provide remotely operated vehicle time to continue to explore soft coral and sponge communities in the sanctuary during the 2005 research season. The Superintendent accepted the letter of support and included it in a grant application to the Office of Ocean Exploration.

The Council also received briefings on the following issues:

- A number of briefings and presentations on fishery management in the sanctuary, including:
 - o A briefing by Superintendent Bernthal on the sanctuary regulations and authority regarding fishing activity within the sanctuary;
 - o An overview by NOAA Fisheries on the national structure of fisheries management through the Stevens/Magnuson Act, and the Pacific Fishery Management Council;
 - o A presentation from staff of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council on their membership, structure, and public participation;

- o A briefing by staff from NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center on the biology and status of some fish stocks that occur in the sanctuary; and
- o A presentation by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on how they manage the non-tribal fisheries on the coast, including the sanctuary;
- An overview by sanctuary staff of the results of the 2003 research season in the sanctuary and the anticipated research projects for the 2004 research season;
- A report by sanctuary staff on the results of the first research cruise by the NOAA R/V *McArthur II* that found the first evidence of deepwater coral and sponge communities in the sanctuary, including the finding of a rare species of coral that had only been previously found in the Atlantic;
- A presentation by sanctuary staff on the role of the Council in the upcoming management plan review process (Navigating the Future), especially in regard to the public scoping process and prioritizing issues; and
- A presentation by Phil Katzen, a prominent tribal attorney, on the history of the legal evolution of tribal treaty rights within the State of Washington, starting from the treaties negotiated by the Territorial Governor to important court decisions of the last 30 years that clarified the treaty obligations of the state and federal government.

Major Administrative Changes

The Council seated new members and alternates for the education and the commercial fishing seats. The Council also seated the representative from the Northwest Straits Commission. The Council voted to continue Terrie Klinger as Chair, Bob Bohlman as Vice Chair, and Martha Hurd as Secretary.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://olympiccoast.nos.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/welcome.html>.



Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Site Profile

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in November 1992, sits at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay between Cape Ann and Cape Cod. The 842-square-mile sanctuary encompasses mud-filled basins, rock ledges and boulder fields, and the gravel and coarse sand bank, which was formed by the retreat of glaciers from the last Ice Age. The bank's position at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay forces an upwelling of nutrient-rich water from the Gulf of Maine—leading to high productivity and a multi-layered food web that supports a wealth of marine life including various marine mammal species, several endangered or threatened sea turtles and sea birds, and various commercial fish species. The sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources with over 10 documented shipwrecks.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was originally established in 1992. The current Council was established in October 2001. The Council has 21 members covering the wide spectrum of interests in the region, with fifteen voting seats representing various facets of the community including conservation, education, research, fishing, whale watching, recreation, business/industry, and the community at large. The remaining ex-officio seats represent the sanctuary's state and federal partners. The Council generally meets four times a year.

Major Achievements, Milestones/ Councils Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council has faced the challenges of organizing itself, getting up to speed on an intensive management plan review process (underway since 1998), and supporting the sanctuary through an extensive facility renovation (2001-2003). While not reflecting a specific Council action that occurred, 2004 was a formative year to stimulate Council participation and engender cohesive Council support.

In 2003, the Council prioritized the complex array of issues identified by the public in scoping meetings and recommended the formation of stakeholder working groups to address these issues. Council members chaired and participated in eleven working groups from December 2003 to September 2004. Working groups



The moon jelly is a common jellyfish in these waters. It has four distinct horseshoe-shaped gonads and small tentacles. It is usually found close to the surface and close to shore. (photo: Jeff Hannigan)

included: Site Characterization; Ecosystem-Based Management; Ecosystem Alteration; Public Outreach and Education; Water Quality; Maritime Heritage Resources; Inter-agency Cooperation; Administrative Capacity, Development and Infrastructure; Marine Mammal Entanglement; Marine Mammal Behavioral Disturbance; and, Marine Mammal Vessel Strikes.

To formulate the Council's advice to the sanctuary for the revised management plan, the Council met on October 20 and 21, 2004 at the National Academy of Sciences in Woods Hole, MA, to review and vote on the recommendations made in eleven action plans produced by the working groups. The Council then met on November 5, 2004 in Boston, MA, to finalize their recommendations, prioritize strategies and identify important activities within the action plans approved at the October meeting. The management plan review process has been a challenging and time-consuming process that has required the majority of the Council's attention.

In addition, the Council had a number of accomplishments not related to the management plan review in 2004 including:

- Attended the national Council Chair and Coordinators meeting (even during times when the Council had not yet elected a Chair) and provided recommendations to NMSP Headquarters. At the 2004 meeting, Susan Farady (Council Secretary) presented a case study, "An Emerging Issue—Maritime Heritage Resources." At the 2005 Chair/Coordinator's meeting, John Williamson (Council Chair) presented a case study, "The Challenges of Ecosystem-Based Management."
- Revised and updated the Council Charter.
- Participated in the Stellwagen Summit held at the New England Aquarium (Boston, MA) where high school students went through a day-long mock management plan review stakeholder process.
- Council officers, John Williamson (chair) and Susan Farady, (secretary) participated in a symposium at the University of Maine, School of Law (May 2004), co-sponsored by The Ocean Conservancy and the law school's Ocean and Coastal Law Journal. Symposium participants considered recommendations from the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy.

Major Administrative Changes

Council member terms expired in 2004. All seats were advertised and many applications received, with many experienced members returning and talented new members being integrated as well. Two and three-year terms were established for the incoming Council to avoid periodic turnover of the entire Council. In June 2004, The sanctuary welcomed the newly appointed and returning members to the Council. Two alternate seats are still open and will be recruited. New officers were elected at the February 2005 meeting. Nathalie Ward continues her third year as Council Coordinator.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov/about/sac.html>.

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary/Underwater Preserve

Site Profile

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, designated in October 2000, boasts an impressive array of underwater cultural resources including shipwrecks. The area contains a nationally significant collection of an estimated 160 shipwrecks that spans over two centuries of Great Lakes shipping history. The sanctuary/underwater preserve is 448 square miles in area and is located in northern Lake Huron, near Alpena, Michigan.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Thunder Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1997 and has fifteen members, all representing facets of the sanctuary community, including education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, cultural resources, economic development, and the community at large. Five seats represent local community governments. The Council meets bi-monthly, with informal coffees and lunches scheduled for non-meeting months. Working groups meet as needed. The fifteen alternates also take an active role in Council meetings as well as assist in carrying out the many volunteer assignments throughout the year. Attendance at sanctuary Council meetings continues to be outstanding with a typical turn-out of 18 members and alternates. This attests to the high degree of interest in sanctuary issues and the dedication of the people who have volunteered to serve their community in this manner.

Major Achievements and Milestones

In 2004, the Council held four regular meetings and a half-day retreat/meeting and met informally six times. The informal meetings have proven to be very successful and an integral part of the Council's interaction and were featured during the Chair/Coordinator's Meeting in San Francisco in February 2005. During the retreat Council members reviewed and discussed the priorities which were established the prior year. The priorities: 1) have a greater presence at community events and sanctuary presentations; 2) develop a local logo; 3) become more knowledgeable about the sanctuary; 4) help create a program for oral history; and 5) help establish a friends' group. The Council decided to continue working on these goals.

*Bow of the shipwreck Grecian,
in the cold waters of Thunder Bay*



One of the continuing goals of the Council was to learn more about Thunder Bay's shipwrecks and resources, as well as other sanctuary issues. During each of the Council meetings, time was set aside for a presentation. This year presentations were given by Steve Ruberg, an electronics engineer from the Great Lakes Environmental Research Lab, who spoke about the sink holes and data buoy projects he has been working on in Thunder Bay. Another meeting featured the Thunder Bay Research Collection and a tour of the library where it is housed. The Council also heard presentations from the sanctuary staff on their 2004 fieldwork. Another regular feature, "Sanctuary Updates" is popular with Council members and the media, and serves to keep the Council "in the loop." The Council also receives a periodic email update between meetings.

During 2004, a working group was formed to review the Council's Charter and provide suggested revisions to the Council. A revised draft of the Charter was presented to the Council, voted on and approved in October 2004.

Constituent Reports continue to be an important tool for Council member involvement. During the five meetings in 2004, three members reported each meeting on the various ways their constituents are interfacing with the sanctuary. This provides a valuable way for Council members to stay in touch with the segment of the community they represent and to share that with the balance of the Council and the sanctuary staff. All agreed these reports should continue in 2005.

In 2004, the Council took on major volunteer roles in events such as the premiere of the sanctuary's film "Tragedies in the Mist," Maritime Festival, Lighthouse Festival, the visit from the tall ship *HMS Bounty*, and staffing the sanctuary's exhibit, as well as dive shows around the country. The Council, along with sanctuary staff, built a float for the Fourth of July Parade to promote the Thunder Bay Maritime Festival. Council members also helped sanctuary staff at several presentations in the region. In recognition of the Council's volunteer efforts and service on the Council, the sanctuary invited members for a sail on board the tall ship *Denis Sullivan*.

The Council participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the Thunder Bay's new visitor center. The visitor center is a 20,000-square-foot facility in Alpena, Michigan, which will preserve and highlight the maritime heritage of the Great Lakes and the shipwrecks of Michigan's Thunder Bay. When completed, the facility will feature a maritime heritage "discovery center" featuring over 8,000 square-feet of exhibits on the Great Lakes, shipwrecks, archaeology and maritime history.

Major Administrative Changes

In 2004, a number of Council member terms ended so the site went through a recruitment and selection process to fill the seats.

In 2004, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve added three new staff members: Cathy Green, Education and Outreach Coordinator; Russ Green, Program and Operations Coordinator; and Allison Melicharek, NOAA Corps Officer.

For Additional Information

Please visit the sanctuary's website for additional information about the Council at <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/sac/sac.html>.

